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THE DECLARATION
OF HIS HIGHNESS
WILLIAM HENRY,

By the Grace of GOD, PRINCE of
WALMACE, &c.

W 2330

OF the Reasons inducing him, to appear in Arms
for preserving of the Protestant Religion, and
for Restoring the Laws and Liberties of
the ancient Kingdom of Scotland.

THERE is both certain and evident to all men, that the publick Peace and Happiness of any State or Kingdom, cannot be preserved, where the Laws, Liberties and Customs established by the lawful authority in it, are openly transcribed and annulled; more especially where the alteration of Religion is permitted, and that a Religion which is contrary to Law is encouraged and introduced; upon which those who are most immediately concerned in it, are indispensably bound to endeavour to preserve and maintain the established Laws, Liberties and Customs; and above all the *Religion* and worship of God, that is predominant among them; and to make such an effectual care, that the inhabitants of the said State or Kingdom, may neither be deprived of their Religion, nor of their Civil Rights, which is to much the more necessary, because the Greatest Security both of Kings Royal, Families and all Subjects, are in Authority, as well as the happiness of their Subjects and People, depend in a high special manner, upon the exact observation and maintenance of their Laws, Liberties and Customs.

Upon these grounds it is, that We cannot any longer forbear to Declare that to our great regret We see that those Counsellours, who have now the chief credit with the King, have overruled the Estates, Laws, and Liberties of these Realms, to introduce a Religion, and a Government, so contrary to their Conscience, Liberties and Privileges, as to disuse Government, and to overthrow Laws, and just and lawful ways, in an open and manifest manner; and have moreover, by their own secret and unadmitted counsels, effected an Arbitrary Power, and of all Government, and of all the Liberties and Liberties of these Realms, and of the Kingdom of Scotland, which are to Manifest in the following manner:—

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whose prudēce and confidence do prompt us to an abhorrence of them. For
whence we consider the sed. consider that Nation, though always affectionate
to the Royal Family, and governed for many Age by Laws made by the autho-
rity of their Kings, and of the Estates of parliament, and by common Consent
is reduced to, by endeavours that have been used to change the constitution
of the Monarchy regulate by Laws, into a Despotick or Arbitrary Power;
which doth evidently appear not only by the actions of these Councilours in
power, but by the deliberate and express publick Declarations, bearing that
the King is an absolute Monarch, to whom obedience ought to be given in all
things, without reservē, thereby to make way to introduce what Religion they
please, without so much as the necessity of the consent of the Nation by their
Estates in Parliament. Whiles we consider and ponder these things, as we can-
not but be touched with a tender sense of those miseries, so the giving such a
reality to them, as may be proper and may answer the expectation of all good
men, and true Protestants, is the great thing which we propose to our selves
in this undertaking: the Equity whereof will be justified to the world, if what
hath been said at the instigation of these Evil Councilours be further im-
plicated.

It is well known, that the Laws, Priviledges and Rights of the Kingdom have
been overturned to the great prejudice of King and people, whilst that all
foundation of confidence and truth is removed. And it is no less known what
have been the Arbitrary procedors of an encroaching Privy Council, for al-
though by the Laws enacted by the authority of King and Parliament, is law-
fully prohibited, that the Popish Religion should be professed, or Seminary
Priests suffered within the Kingdom, or that the children of any Ministers or
Gentlemen should be sent abroad to be educated in Popish Colleges; yet have
these Evil Councilours suffered to suffer, and Neglected to be taken from
their Ministries, and to be sent abroad to be instructed in Jesuit Colleges,
and have likewise caused Schools to be erected under the conduct of Popish
Priests, and the in the Capital City of the Kingdom.

In an open contemptus of the known Law of the Kingdom, Papists are put
into places of Highest Trust, both Civil and Military, and entrusted with all the
Power of the Nation. The rights and Priviledges of the Royal Burghs, the third
estate of Parliament, having already Departed in it as all the Shires in the King-
dom, are given over, and they interested in the free election of their Magistrates
and Town Councillors, and in the Government of their Charters, established by Law
and Memorials of Parliament, are wholly taken by their Arbitrary power, without
any Citation, Trial or Judgment.

And whereas no Magistrate whatever can inflict without the administration of
speed and impartial Justice, upon which rests Lives, and Liberties, their Honours
and Estates Diminuē, yet those Evil Councilours have inflicted their ^{so} in Ar-
bitrary and Despotick power: having caused our Judges, who by Law are to
administer Justice, to be of the worst behaviour, because they would not give
any advantage to their ^{so} enemies, and put others in their places, who may be
more fit to administer Justice, and that without any regard to their abilities; by
which it evidently appears, that those Evil Councilours design to render them
thieves the Affairs of the Lives, Honours and Estates of the subjects,
without being punished by any rule or Law;

THE VICTORIAN DECLARATION.

By the Indulgence of the King, the Parliament, and the most exorbitant power been exercised in Imposing Taxes and Outlays upon whole Shires without any Law or Act of Parliament: in permitting Free quarters to the soldiers, although they had a sufficient Establishment for their pay, whereby the Kingdom was doubly burdened without any redress; in imprisoning Gentlemen without any, so much as alledged, Reason, forcing many to accuse and witness against themselves; in imposing arbitrary fines, flogging and harassing many parts of the Country with Intercommuning and Justice-Visits, making some incur fortitude of life and fortune for the most general and harmless converse, even with their nearest Relations outlawed. And thus bringing a consternation upon a great part of the Kingdom, which when Outlaws and Intercommunings were not against multitudes upon the slenderest pretexts, was involved, universally to that danger, that those Councillours themselves were so obnoxious as to find it necessary to have Pardons and Indemnities, whilst the poor people were left to mercy; Empowering Officers and Soldiers to Act upon the Subjects, living in quiet and full peace, the greatest Barbarities, in destroying them, by hanging, shooting and drowning them without any forme of Law, or respect to Age or Sex, not giving some of them time to pray to God for mercy: And this for no other reason, but because they would not answer or satisfy them in such questions as they proposed to them, without any warrant of Law, and against the Common interest of Mankind, which frees all men from being obliged to discover their secret thoughts, besides a great many other Violences and Oppressions, to which that poor Nation hath been expos'd without any hope of having an end put to them, or to have Relief from them.

And that the Arbitrary and illegal proceedings of those Evil Councillours might be justified and supported, such a Declaration hath been procured by them, as strikes at the root of the Government, and overturns the most sacred Rights of it, in making all Parliaments unnecessary, and taking away all defences of Religion, Liberty and Property, by an assumed and asserted Absolute Power, to which Obedience is required without Reserve: which every good Christian is perswaded to be due to God Almighty alone, all whose Commandments are always Just and Good.

These Evil Councillours have used their utmost endeavours to abolish Penal Laws, excluding all who are not Protestants from Publick Trust, which give too great a check to their designs. For the accomplishing of this a Liberty hath been granted to Dissenters, but such a one, as that the continuance thereof is plainly infam'd, to depend upon their hearty concurrence for Abolishing the aforesaid Penal Laws, the only legal defence of their Religion; Although the Dissenters have just cause of distrust, when they call to mind howsome handings of their ministers were driven out of their Churches without either accusation or citation: the filling of many of whose places with ignorant and scandalous persons hath been one great occasion of all those Miseries which that Country for a long time hath groaned under. And Dissenters have but small ground to rest upon, present safe founded upon a Proclamation, which may be recalled every hour, and which in the first and second Editions of it gave no relief to them, especially considering that not many months before, the greatest of the foremention'd severities; and barbarities had been exercised upon them.

But to crown all, there are great and violent Presumptions, inducing us to be-

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Ileve, that those Evill Councillours, in order to the carrying on of their ill designs; and to the gaining to themselves the more time for the Effecting of them, for the encouraging of their Complices, and for the discouraging of all Good Subjects, hath published that the Queen hath brought forth a Son: tho there have appeared both during the Queens pretended Bigness, and in the manner in which the Birth was managed, so many just and visible grounds of suspcion, that not only We our selves, but all the good Subjects of those Kingdomes do vehemently suspect, that the pretended prince of Wales was not born by the Queen. And it is notoriously known to all the world, that many both doubted of the Queens Bigness, and of the Birth of the Child, and yet there was not any one thing done to satisfy them, or to put an end to their Doubts.

And since our Deareft and most Entirely beloved Confort, the Princeſſe, and likewife We our ſelves, have ſo great an Interēſt in this Matter, and ſuch a Right, as all the world knows, to the ſucession of these Kingdomes, which thoſe Men have attempted to violate, for preventing of all redreſs of miſeries, by the lawfull Successors of the Crown, educated by the good proviſe of God, in the trine Profefſion of the Protestant Religion, We cannot excuse our ſelves from eſpouſing the true Interēſt of theſe Nations in matters of ſuch high Conſequēce, and from contributing all that lies in us, for the deſence of the Laws and Liberties thereof, the maintaining of the Protestant Religion in them, and the ſecuring of the people in the enjoyment of all their just Rights.

But that our Intentions may be ſo maniſt that no perſon may doubt or pretend to doubt thereof, to excuse themſelves from concurring with us in this just Deſign for the Universal good of the Nation. We do deſire that the ſeeling that Kingdom from all Hazard of Popery and Arbitrary power for the future, and the delivering it from what at the preſent doth expoſe it both, the ſetting of it by Parliament upon ſuſh a Baſis as to its Religious, and Civil Concerſs, as may moſt eſteſually redreſſ all the abovementioned Grievances, are the true reaſons of our preſent undernekiing as to that Nation,

And therefore, We perſuade our ſelves, that our Endeavours to give the beſt affiſſance we can for the Rellef of ſo diſtrefled a Kingdom, that not only not be miſconſtrued, but ſhal alſo be accompanied with a chearful and univerſal Concurſe of the whole Nation, that even thoſe who have been Instruments for the enſlaving of it, will now ſhew their diſlike of what they have done, by their timous and reaſonable Diligeſce for its Relieſe; and that if any ſhall not give us that Affiſſance, which their Conciience to God, and their Reſpect to their Countrye oblige them to, they ſhall be juſtly charged with all the Evils that may be the effects of ſuſh a want of their duty.

And as we our ſelves deſire to truſt to the Almighty God alone for the ſucess of our Arms, fo we expeſt of all good men, that they will apply themſelves moſt eaſeſſly to him for his bleſſing upon our endeavours, that fo they may tend to the Glory of his Great Name, to the Eſtablishment of the Reformed Churches, and to the Peace and Happineſſ of that Kingdom.

Given under our haud and Seal at our Court in the Hague, the tenth of October in the year of our Lord 1688.

WILLIAM HENRY PRINCE OF ORANGE.

By his Highneſſe ſpecial command

C. HUYGENS.

To

To all Commanders of Ships, and
all Seamen that are now employ-
ed in the English Fleet.

Gentlemen and Friends,

Our Right Trusty and Well beloved Admiral Herbert Is fully Instructed by Us: And therefore We expe&t that you will give an Equire credit, to every thing that he shall say to you in our Name: Wee have prepared a Declaration, containing the Reasons that induce Us to undertake the Present Expedition, In which Wee have no other designe but the preservation of the Protestant Religion, and the restorung of the Lawes and Liberties of England. The totall ruine of your Religion being at much designed by the Papists in England, as it is already accomplished in France; and it will as certainly be effected, If they are able to prevail at this time.

Wee can not beleve, but that you must be already sensible, that you are on-
ly made use of as Instruments, to bring both your selves and your Countrey under Popery and Slavery, by the means both of the Irish and the Forreigners, who are preparing to compleat your Destruction. And therefore we hope that God will put it in your hearts at this time, to Redeem your selves, your Countrey and your Religion from all those Miseries.

This in all humane appearance can only be done, by your coming now to assist Us, who are labouring for your Deliverance. And Wee do assure you that Wee will be ever mindful of the services that you shal now do Us: And Wee promise to you that We will place particular marks of our Favour on all those who will upon this Occasion deserve well of Us and of the Nation, Wee are with all sincerity Your truely well wishing and affectionate Friend.

Given at our Court at Dicres
the 29th day of September
1688.

WILLIAM H: PRINCE OF ORANGE.

By his Highnesse special command

C. HUYGENS.

To

To all the Officers and Souldiers in the English Army.

Gentlemen and Friends.

WE have given so true and so full an account of our Intentions in this Ex-
pedition, in our Declaration, that as Wee can addenothing to 't, Wee
are sure that you can desice nothing more of Us. Wee come to preserve
your Religion, and to restore and establish your Liberties and Properties : and
therefore Wee cannot suffer our selves to doubt, but that all Protestants and true
Englishmen will come and concurre with us in our design, to secure these Nations
from Popery and Slavery. You must all see plainly, that you are made use of
only as Instruments, to enslave the Nation, and to ruine the Protestant Religion :
and when that is done you may judge what you your selves ought to expect, both
by the cashiering of all the Protestant and English Officers and Souldiers in Ire-
land, and by the Irish Souldiers that are brought over to be put in your places, of
which you have seen so fresh an instance, that we need not put you in mind of
it. You know how many of your Fellow Officers have been used, only for their
Standing firm to the Protestant Religion and to the Lawes of England : and you
cannot suffer your selves so farre, as to expect to be better used. If those who
have broke their word so oft, should by your meanes be brought out of the straits,
to which they are reduced at present.

Wee hope likewise, that you will not suffer your selves to be abused by a false
notion of Honour : but that you will in the first place consider, what you owe to
Almighty God, and your Religion, to your Country, to your selves and to your
Posterity, which you as men of Honour ought to prefer to all Private Consider-
ations and Engagements whatsoever. Wee doe therefore expect, that you will con-
fide the Honour that is now set before you, of being the Instruments of saving
your Country, and of securing your Religion. Wee will ever remember the ser-
vices that you shal do upon this occasion : and Wee promise to you, that Wee
will place such particular marks of our Favour on every one of you, as your beha-
vour at this time shall deserve of us, and of the Nation, in which Wee will make
a great distinction of those, that shall come feasably to joyn their Armes with
ours. And you shall ever find us to be Your Well Wishing and assured Friend,

WILLIAM HENRY, PRINCE OF ORANGE.

By his Highness's speciall command

C: HUYGENS.

A Prayer

A Prayer for the present Expedition.

Almighty God, the Lord of Hosts, and the
Aid and Refuge of all that trust in Thee,
We humbly pray thee, to bless and prosper this
undertaking, for the glory of thy Name, and for
the good of thy People: Let not our sins provoke
thee, to deny thy blessing to thy Servant the Prince,
Empaſt him with thy favour as with a Shield: Di-
rect him in all his Councells, and be thou ever pre-
sent with him, and assisting to him in all his Ac-
tions: that so he may be ſucceſſeſlul in this great De-
ſign: and that he may Imploy all the power, that
thou puts in his hands, to the honour of thy Great
Name, to the establishing and advancing of thy
true Religion, and to the procuring of the Peace
and Happineſſe of these Nations: Bleſſe both the
Army and Fleet under his Command, with Suc-
ceſſe and Victory. And grant, O gracious God, that
all of us may be turning to thee, with our whole
hearts; Repenting us truly of all our past ſins, and
solemnly vowed to thee, as we now do, that we
will

will in all time coming, amend our Lives, and
endeavour to carry our selves as becomes Reformed
Christians. And that we will shew our Zeal for
our holy Religion, by living in all things suitable
to it. Hear us, Holy Father, and set thy Angels
to encamp round about us, for we put our whole
trust in thy Protection and Defence, which we
humbly pray thee to grant us, for the sake of Jesus
Christ our only Saviour and Redeemer.

Amens

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